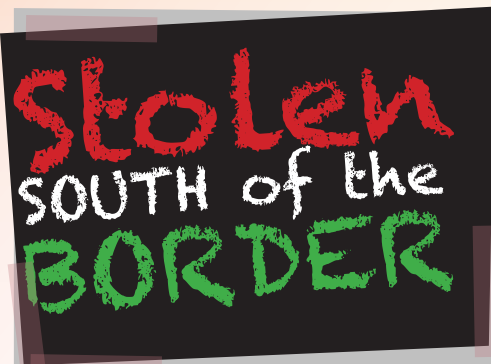




“Vehicle cloning: a highly lucrative crime”

Story on page 4

Produced by the San Diego County Regional Auto Theft Task Force - RATT 1(888) TELL-RAT



What Should I Do If My Car Is Stolen in Mexico?

If your vehicle is stolen in Mexico, contact the local Mexican authorities and make a police report. Note the report number and

agency name. Obtain an original, certified Mexican police report from the police agency. Upon your return to the U.S., contact the California Highway Patrol at a local office. Bring your identification and the certified, original Mexican theft report. The vehicle must be currently registered in the U.S. and the registered owner must live in the U.S. Be sure to bring your identification.

What If my Stolen Car is Recovered in Mexico?

If you locate and recover your vehicle in Mexico, notify the U.S. Customs inspector when crossing the U.S. / Mexico border. You will be sent to a “secondary inspection” area and either the California Highway Patrol or San Diego Police Department will dispatch an officer to examine your vehicle and check your identification. The officer will release the vehicle to the registered owner. This is an important step. If you do not have the vehicle recovered and released by a U.S. police department, you will be driving a vehicle that is STILL reported stolen. You could be stopped and detained!

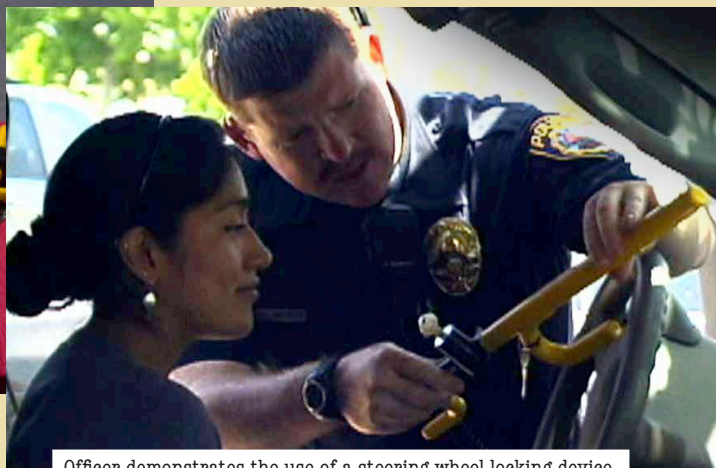
Information source: San Diego Police Dept. sandiego.gov/police/about/autotheft.shtml

Join the “CLUB”

In response to a tremendous number of public inquiries that were generated as a result of this summer’s “SWAT-400” multi agency steering wheel lock giveaway program, the Chula Vista Police Department has stepped forward. Beginning immediately, CVPD’s headquarters (315 Fourth Ave., Chula Vista) will serve as central point in the South Bay region for the sale of the popular “CLUB” vehicle steering wheel locks.

easily be seen from outside the vehicle, serve as a visual deterrent to suspects looking to steal a car.

The highly discounted yellow law enforcement edition of the “CLUB” (normally red), are being sold through the Chula Vista Police Foundation. The non profit group is making the locks available at a cost of just \$15 each. The long term goal will be to establish additional locations across the county where the public will be able to purchase the locks.



Officer demonstrates the use of a steering wheel locking device

The steering wheel locks not only provide a good physical deterrent against auto theft, but with their bright yellow color which can

**For more
information
on how to
obtain one
of the locks
contact
Sgt. Steve
Witte at the
San Diego
Regional
Auto Theft
Task Force
(858) 627-
4035.**

"Shoebox," A Good Place to Hide a Stolen Motorcycle?

A "shoebox" is a slang term used by motorcycle thieves to describe a vehicle used to conceal and transport a stolen motorcycle. The shoebox itself is usually a stolen vehicle such as a minivan, cargo van or a U-haul style box truck. Once the pilfered motorcycle has been delivered to a discrete location, such as a chop-shop, a private garage, or across the U.S./Mexico Border, the shoebox vehicle is then quickly dumped.

The following list can help you spot a motorcycle theft that may be occurring. Signs of possible motorcycle theft include:

- One or more individuals standing near a motorcycle looking suspicious.
- A motorcycle being quickly loaded into a van/truck
- A motorcycle concealed in the rear cargo area of a van
- Van/truck's license plates covered or missing
- A motorcycle laying on its side while being transported



Frame grab courtesy www.youtube.com

If you spot a possible motorcycle theft in progress, call 911 immediately.

Editor's note: Although all make and model motorcycles are vulnerable to theft, the most popular bikes that are being stolen in the San Diego region are the newer sport model motorcycles.

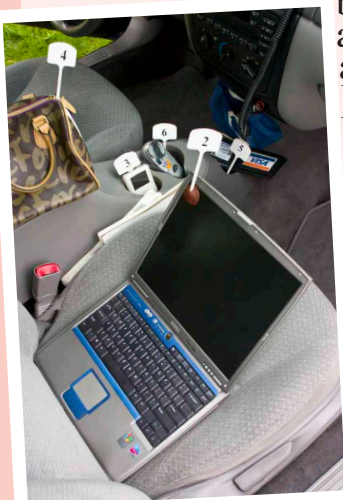
DID YOU KNOW?

In 1992, in order to deal with the growing problem of vehicle thefts in the San Diego region, law enforcement joined forces and established a highly successful multi-agency task force which became known as RATT, (the Regional Auto Theft Task Force).

RATT TARGETS THE PROFESSIONAL/CAREER CRIMINAL WHO MAKES A LIVING FROM STEALING CARS AND MOTORCYCLES.

Top 10 Items Stolen from Inside Cars

Each day in communities throughout San Diego County dozens of vehicles are broken into and items totaling hundreds of dollars in value are stolen. You can avoid



becoming a victim of a vehicle break-in by locking your car and placing all items of value out of sight in the glove box, under the seat or in the trunk.

Most Stolen Items		Approximate Value
1	Navigation Aid-GPS	\$100
2	Laptop Computer	\$500
3	IPOD/MP3 Player	\$150
4	Purse	\$25
5	Wallet	\$20
6	Camera	\$150
7	Cellular Phone	\$200
8	Hand Tools	\$100
9	Sun Glasses	\$75
10	Compact Disc	\$50
Total		\$1,370

Vehicle Schemes, Scams & Cons

Car Sublease Scam

Here is how the scam works: A “company” will advertise they can help you get out of your high monthly car loan or lease payments by subleasing your vehicle. They promise to find a qualified person who will take possession of your car and assume the monthly loan or lease payments. The company also promises that the qualified person will maintain the car and make all repairs as needed. You may even receive a set of official looking documents that are required to be signed, notarized and then returned.

There is just one problem with this offer. The so called “qualified” person, who took over your lease or loan payments, defaults, damages the car or disappears along with the vehicle.

It is important to note that the financial agreements that most lenders use expressly prohibit the subleasing or transferring of any interest in the vehicle to a third party.

The person who originally arranged for the loan or lease through the car agency or bank is the person who is ultimately responsible for the loan. Be careful or you could find yourself in a situation where you are not just making up the back payments on the original car loan/lease, but you could also be stuck with catching up on unpaid insurance premiums, repairing a damaged car or working to salvage your credit rating.

Neighborhoods Targeted for Auto Theft Prevention

As part of an ongoing effort to increase public awareness on the problem of vehicle theft and break-ins, RATT recently launched Auto Theft Prevention-Community Action Day. Participants attending the events learn about the latest in vehicle security and receive theft prevention information. The Action Day is offered in San Diego County communities that have experienced an increase in the number of vehicle thefts and vehicle break-ins.



“We wanted to work directly with the public in order to help reduce and even prevent auto thefts in their neighborhoods. What better way to do that than by partnering with police officers and sheriff deputies who are already working to fight crime in these communities,” said Captain Lisa Wrobel, with the California Highway Patrol and until recently the Commanding Officer of RATT. The San Diego Police Department’s Southeastern

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Division recently hosted the first event in the series. The manufactures of several well known vehicle security systems and devices, including Lojack (the stolen vehicle recovery system), were on hand demonstrating their

products. RATT offered free VIN windshield etching to the owners of the first 50 vehicles to arrive. Members of the public were also able to purchase the law enforcement model of the popular “CLUB” steering wheel locking device at a price well below the retail market value.



The next Auto Theft Prevention - Community Action Day event is being planned for early 2011



Community members learning how to keep their cars safe

It's Not a Feat of Science CLONED VEHICLES ARE A CRIME



Vehicle cloning is a scheme that uses counterfeit documents to help sell stolen vehicles. The scam begins when someone copies a vehicle identification number (VIN) from a legally owned and documented vehicle sitting in a parking lot or vehicle dealership. This VIN is then used as the basis to create counterfeit VIN tags.

The next step in the cloning process is to steal a vehicle similar to the one from which the criminal lifted the legitimate VIN. The stolen vehicle's legitimate VIN tag is replaced with the counterfeit one. With this counterfeit tag, the stolen vehicle is now a "clone" of the original vehicle that was legally owned and innocently parked in a lot. With the counterfeit VIN tag, the stolen vehicle can easily be sold without detection by government agencies.

To complete the scenario, criminals will create counterfeit ownership documents for the cloned vehicle or obtain the ownership documentation under false pretenses. They

use this phony documentation to sell the stolen vehicle to an innocent purchaser.

Vehicle cloning is a highly lucrative crime. Car thieves often travel across state and international borders to sell cloned vehicles at the highest prices. Most licensing agencies do not check for duplicate ownership when an out-of-state ownership document is surrendered, so the odds of discovery are low. It is also easy to simultaneously insure the same VIN in different locations.

Fraud Indicators

- The insured policyholder purchased the vehicle with Canadian documents.
- The vehicle was purchased for an unusually low price or from out of state, and has an incorrect VIN.
- The vehicle is a new or late model with no lien holder.
- The vehicle was purchased from an individual running a newspaper ad and using a cell phone number.
- The vehicle's speedometer displays kilometer-per-hours rather than miles-per-hour.

Tips to Help You Avoid Becoming a Victim of Motorcycle Theft

The number of sport motorcycles stolen in the San Diego border region has increased dramatically over the years. Professional motorcycle thieves are stealing sport bikes for their parts or selling the bikes on the black-market.

Do's

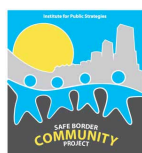
- Lock your ignition and remove the key. Many bike thefts occur when the ignition is shut off, but not locked.
- Lock your bikes forks or disk brakes with a large external lock.
- When riding alone, lock your bike to a secure, stationary object that can't be easily dismantled, such as a light pole.
- When traveling with other riders, lock motorcycles together when not in use.
- Add an audible alarm to your motorcycle.
- Consider installing a stolen vehicle tracking system to aid in the recovery of your bike.
- Uniquely mark and photograph your bike. This information can help law enforcement identify your bike parts especially any custom work or accessories.
- Keep your bike's registration and insurance ID card on your person and not with your bike.

By utilizing the prevention tips listed in this brochure, you can reduce the possibility of having your motorcycle stolen.

Don'ts

- Don't park your bike in isolated or poorly lit parking areas.
- Don't store your title (pink slip in your bike's storage compartment, tank or saddle bags.
- Don't give out your home address when advertising the sale of your bike. Arrange to meet the prospective buyer at a public place.
- Don't give out private information on where you live, work or play.

Theft Prevention Tips Courtesy: **Sentry Insurance**. Special Thanks to: **Motorcycle Safety Foundation**- www.msf-usa.org



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